REMARKS

Base claims 5, 7, 8, 11, 15, 28, 30, 38, 39, 42, 54 and dependent claims 13, 20, 29, 33, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47 48, 49, 52, 53, 55, 56, 63 and 67 have been cancelled.

Claim language has been amended to overcome '113 objections listed on pages 2-5 of the Action.

Claim 1 has been amended to include language of allowable claim 2, whereby claim 1 and all claims dependent from it (6, 12, 17, 31, 50 and 51) are urged to be allowable.

Allowable claims 3-5 have been made independent, to be allowable. Claim 2 has been made dependent on claim 3.

Claims 9 and 10 have been made independent, to be allowable, and claims 14 and 16 have been made independent to be allowable.

Claim 18 has been amended to include contents of allowable claim 19, whereby claim 18 and all claims dependent from it (21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 27) are urged

Serial No. 10/566,831

to be allowable. Claims 26 and 27 are urged to be allowable.

Claims 32, 34, 35 and 36 have been made independent to be allowable, along with claim 33 which is dependent from 32, and claim 37 dependent from 36.

Claims 40 and 41 have been made independent to be allowable.

Claim 57 is amended to include contents of claim 58, but reciting clustered means, and should be allowable along with dependent claims 58-62, and 64-66.

Claims 58-66 are allowed.

Claims 67 and 68 dependent on claim 57, should be allowable.

Claim 69 has been amended and should be allowable for the same reasons as support allowance of claim 57.

Allowance is respectfully solicited.

★ * 1 #

Serial No. 10/566,831

A check in the amount of \$1385 is enclosed for additional independent claims and for a 2-month extension of time. Kindly charge any remaining fees to Account 08-0118.

Respectfully submitted,

William W. Haefliger

Attorney for Applicant

Reg. No. 17,120

323 684-2707

WWH:ts

Docket 12,757